

Y.M.C.A. - P.O. Box 22486
Jackson, MS 39205
June 17, 1974

My dear friend Harold,

Hope this finds you very well and in good spirits. I have thought of you often, and regret that we do not get together more frequently. There are many things I would like to sit down and talk over with you, as we did last time we were together.

My grandfather has been in the hospital, and during what was to be a routine operation for removal of a blockage it was discovered he has cancer. So I went home to Houston, and took off a week from work and school to go be with the family. He is feeling much better now, and though he is 85, he is very strong, and probably has many healthy years left. This was the reason I have not written you much sooner about recent developments.

First of all, I was so shocked and saddened to learn of the U.S. Supreme Court decision against you in the Spectro suit. I read about it in the Houston Post. It is incredible, and I cannot understand it. Except, of course, in the way that we have come to understand all such things. The analysis proves you are correct, no doubt, that C.E. 399 did not come from Oswald. Still, I had hoped for better things in the enlightening era.

On a happier note, I am thrilled at other news, and I don't know in which order to take them. There is a news story which I have just pasted into my scrapbook that Congressman Henry Gonzales of Texas is planning an investigation of the links between Watergate/dirty tricks and the JFK, et al assassinations. This is sweet music to my ears, for it is what you and I have always hoped for, an honest, open inquiry by a Congressional committee. Of course, I am restrained in my joy, for there have been all too many such announcements which became crushing disappointments. Some of them we shared, and that includes New Orleans.

Similarly, there is a story (which in the Houston Post ran alongside the article about you) that an L.A. county Supervisor named Baxter Ward has opened hearings on the question of another assassin at the RPK shooting. It is along the lines we discussed. However, there are charges that it's politically motivated, because this man was (unsuccessfully) a candidate for Governor.

Additionally, there is the thing that you and I talked about when we were together in Washington last November.

Many times, in response to continued public interest and pressure, they announce a "re-opening" of the case, and then sit back and keep the file closed. However, what you and I were talking about in that regard were the Kent State shootings and the Yablonski killings. As you know, in the first, the National Guardsmen were indicted, and in the second, Boyle was tried and convicted. Those are two examples where public promises were followed through on. So I am not completely cynical.

I am about halfway through reading (with deliberate and careful slowness) the White House transcripts. I could write volumes and volumes, but I neither have the time nor the energy, nor do you have it to read. It is sick, disgusting, disgraceful, and I can honestly say even worse than I had imagined. Can you say that, too, Harold? Is it worse than you realized? Also, what is especially scary is that this is the best they could come up with, even in a heavily-edited version. Just think what is in the deleted sections, and I don't mean the expletives. E.g.: (Material not related to Presidential actions deleted).

Finally, and by far most importantly, I am ecstatic at the news that, at long last there will be justice done in the James Earl Ray case. My happiness is tempered only by the fact that it took so long, and so much work, by such strong and brilliant attorneys as Jim Lesar, whom you introduced me to in Washington. This is what I was praying for, and had almost lost hope on. *(Not to mention the essential investigative work done by you.)*

I hope that Ray will be out of jail by the time I become a lawyer (in mid-1976), and the real killers and planners of Dr. King's death in prison, so that there will not be need for my services as an attorney. But the whole reason I am writing you now Harold is to impress upon you again my strong interest in these cases, my strong desire for justice, and my most fervent wish for the full truth to come out and the real assassins and planners to be brought to justice. It is the basis of my motivation for my becoming a lawyer, the thing that keeps me going, and not the sole drive but the most important one. You best of all know how hard I've worked, you know that I'm honest and trustworthy, and you know of my sincerity and willingness in this regard. It is you, in turn, that I respect the most, and that obviously is why I am writing you this way. I also consider you a close and dear friend, and you honor me with your friendship. (This is sincere, not flattery, even if it might seem corny.)

By the way, my grades have begun to come in, very slowly, and they are not excellent, but above par. One B in

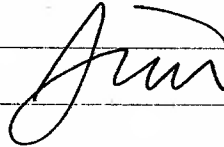
Contracts I; one B- in Uniform Commercial Code; and a C- in Corporations. The final exams were sheer murder, and they determine most of the grade.

Sorry about my bad typing. Hope you can read this. Anyway, I do want us to keep in touch, not necessarily on any schedule, but from time to time, as your hectic schedule permits now and then. And finally when 1976 rolls around I hope I have your assurance that we can continue to work together, with me in my new capacity by then, to bring about the results that we both so fervently desire, and that our great country so richly deserves.

Please write me when you can, especially with regard to the last sentence I just wrote above. I think it is unethical for an attorney to offer his services, so I steer clear of that (even though I'm not a lawyer yet), but let me say that anytime I ever do any work for you or with you regarding the assassinations, I have never and would never charge you any money for it. I hope we will always be friends, and can look forward to working together many, many times. Also, hope we can get together to talk sometime. I need not mention that you have a lifetime standing invitation to visit me at my big home in Long Beach.

All the best to you, my good friend!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name "Jim".